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Croatia

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

This report provides information on food import rules for Croatia. It includes information on labeling, packaging, food additives and import procedures. Important points of contact for U.S. food exporters are listed in the appendices. All sections of this annual report were updated in July 2009. It should be noted that due to Croatia's rapid harmonization of food legislation with EU legislation, information in this report should be double checked for obsolescence with the USDA/FAS office in Croatia.

Section I. Food Laws:

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This report was prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in (**Zagreb, Croatia**) for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

Croatian food legislation consists of the following types of laws:

- The Food Act and regulations;
- Regulations under the old Food Act;
- The Act on Cattle-Breeding and regulations;
- Veterinary Act and regulations;
- Regulations under the old Veterinary Act;
- The Wine Act and regulations;
- The Act on Marine Fishing and regulations;
- The Law on Geographical Identification (GI) and Marks of Traditional Agricultural and Foodstuff Product with amendments and regulations.

Croatian food laws and regulations are valid both for domestic and imported products, and border inspections are regular and consistent. Since the first Food Act was published, Croatia has attempted to harmonize its food legislation with EU food and labeling legislation. This resulted in the new Food Act which was published on the 7th of May, 2007 and came into effect on the 15th of May, 2007. Since then, Croatian food legislation has consistently changed (complying with EU legislation) almost every year.

Scope of laws and regulations:

1. The Food Act with amendments (Governmental Gazette NN46/2007, NN155/2008) and regulations:

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Regulation on labeling feed and placing feed on the market NN54/2007;
- Amendment to the regulation on egg quality NN69/2007, NN69/2007;
- Amendment to the regulation on regulation on strong alcohols and alcoholic drinks NN/73/2007
- Regulation on edible casein and caseins NN80/2007;
- Regulation on condense milk and powdered milk NN80/2007;
- Regulation on official controls for verification of conduct in accordance with provisions of regulation on food, feed and regulations on health and protection of animals NN99/2007, NN74/2008 – few articles of this regulation will be in

effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on hygiene of food originated from animals NN99/2007 - few articles of this regulation will be in effect only after Croatia becomes the EU member;

-- Regulation on official controls of food that has animal origin NN99/2007 - few articles of this regulation will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on food hygiene NN99/2007, NN27/2008 - few articles of this regulation will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on quality of paprika NN101/2007;

-- Regulation on unwanted and forbidden substances in feed NN 118/2007;

-- Regulation on cost of the procedure of registration and right to use registered mark of strong alcoholic and aromatized drinks NN123/2007;

-- Regulation on methods of analysis of milk that is treated with heat and will be used for human consumption NN133/2007;

-- Regulation on secondary substances in the process of production NN38/2008 - article 8 line 6 and article 10 line 2 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation of food that was treated with ionization radiation NN38/2008;

-- Regulation on fast frozen food NN38/2008;

-- Regulation on labeling, marketing and presenting of food NN41/2008;

-- Regulation on hygiene in feed NN41/2008; 28/2009;

-- Regulation on health standards of drinking water NN47/2008;

-- Regulation on aromas NN53/2008 – article 8 line 3 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on the procedure of conducting Trichinae test in meat NN62/2008, NN74/2008, NN 102/2008;

-- Amendment to the regulation on beer and beer with supplements NN69/2008

-- Amendment to the regulation on products similar to chocolates, cream-products and bonbon products NN69/2008;

-- Amendment to the regulation on cookies and cookie related products NN69/2008;

-- Regulation on permitted percentage of eruca acids in oils and fats NN70/2008, NN86/2008; – article 3 line 2 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on microbiological criteria for food NN74/2008;

-- Regulation on food for babies, and small children and processed food on a grain base for babies and small children NN74/2008 – article 25 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on maximal permitted amounts of veterinary-medicine products residues in food of animal origin NN

75/2008, NN 25/2009;- article 9 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member ;

-- Regulation on food for special nutritional purposes NN78/2008 – article 15 line 3 and article 16 line 3 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on food additives NN81/2008 - article 9 line 3 and article 12 line 2 will be in effect only after Croatia becomes an EU member;

-- Regulation on spreadable fats NN89/2008;

-- Regulation on food for weight reduction NN89/2008;

-- Regulation on food for special medical purposes NN 100/2008;

-- Regulation on conditions and procedure of issuing permit for placing on the market of gmo food or feed and requirements for traceability and special labeling of gmo food and feed NN 110/2008;

-- Regulation on vegetable quality NN114/2008, NN137/2008;

-- Regulation on fruit quality NN114/2008, NN137/2008;

-- Regulation on table waters NN120/2008;

-- Regulation on placing on the market of feed and feed mixtures NN 112/2008;

-- Regulation on food enriched with nutrients (addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to food) NN148/2008;

-- Regulation on food supplements NN148/2008;

-- Regulation on measures used in practice for specific products for which are applied food regulations NN154/2008;

-- Regulation on maximum permitted amounts of specific contaminants in food NN154/2008;

-- Regulations on quality of cattle carcasses NN2/2009, NN 68/2009;

-- Regulation on quality of pig carcasses NN2/2009;

-- Regulation on oils from olive fruit and crushed olive fruit NN7/2009;

-- Regulation on nutritional and health claims NN 17/2009;

-- Regulation on frozen desserts NN 20/2009;

-- Regulation on cheeses and products made from cheese NN20/2009;

-- Regulation on milk and dairy products NN 20/2009;

-- Regulation on fruit juices and related products intended for consumption NN 20/2009;

-- Regulation on citing nutritional value of food NN 29/2009;

-- Regulation on sugar and methods of sugar analysis for sugars intended for consumption NN39/2009;

- Regulation on quality of products from tuna fish and Atlantic bonito NN56/2009;
- Regulation on mineral and natural spring waters NN57/2009;
- Regulation on strong alcoholic drinks NN 61/2009;
- Regulation on market standards for specific products of fishing NN 67/2009;
- Regulation on health conditions animals and food of animal origin that are applied in production, processing, import and placing on the market NN75/2009;
- Regulation on alternative identification mark for some foods of animal origin NN75/2009 – this regulation comes into effect after Croatia becomes an EU member;
- Regulation on marking beef and veal NN75/2009. ...

The Food Act regulates the following: general requirements relating to food, Croatian Food Agency, crisis and emergency management, food hygiene, feed hygiene, official controls, new (novel) food (not pertaining to GMO), food and feed that contains genetically modified organisms or consists of them, food and feed quality and areas of responsibility of responsible Government bodies. The Food Act applies to all stages of production, processing, storage and distribution of food and feed, except for primary production, preparation, handling and storage of food in households intended for personal consumption and feeding of household animals, which are not intended for sale on the market.

2. The OLD Food Act (Governmental Gazette NN117/2003, NN130/2003, NN48/2004, NN85/2006) is out of effect but until replaced with new ones there still remain some interesting regulations that are still in effect:

- Regulation on health standards of objects that are in contact with food NN46/2004;
- Regulation on coffee, grain coffee substitutes and products from coffee and grain coffee substitutes NN172/2004;
- Regulation on beer and beer with supplements NN42/2005, NN57/2005, NN69/2008 – article 9 and tables 1 addendum 1 are out of effect;
- Regulation on products similar to chocolates, cream-products and bonbon products NN73/2005; NN69/2008
- Regulation on cacao and chocolate products NN73/2005;
- Regulation on cookies and cookie related products NN73/2005, NN69/2008;
- Regulation on grains, mill and bakery products, pastry, dough and dough products NN78/2005;
- Regulation on conditions that companies dealing with feed have to comply with NN96/2005;
- Regulation on fruit jams, jellies, marmalades, and sweetened mashed chestnut NN76/2006;
- Regulation on conditions that need to be fulfilled when working with feed NN84/2006;
- Regulation on egg quality NN115/2006, NN69/2007;
- Regulation on tomato quality NN124/2006;

-- Regulation on registration and protection of geographical identification (GI) and marks of traditional drink reputation for strong alcoholic and aromatized drinks NN20/2007.

3. The Act on Cattle-Breeding (NN 70/1997 NN 36/1998, NN76/1999, NN151/2003, NN132/06) and the it's derived regulations and ordinances. Regulations derived from the law on cattle breeding are valid until regulations under The Food Act replace them.

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Regulation on the quality of honey and other bee products NN 20/2000;
- Regulation on quality of fresh, raw milk NN 102/2000; NN111/2000; NN74/2008;
- Regulation on egg quality NN115/2006, NN69/2007, 76/2008;
- Regulation on placing on the market of feed and feed mixtures NN 112/2008....

The Act on Cattle-Breeding regulates other items, including trade with animals, quality of animal feed and animal products (e.g. honey and honey products) and quality standards and labeling.

4. The Veterinary Act (NN 41/2007, NN155/2008) and regulations

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Ban of use of certain veterinarian medicines on animals whose meat and products are used for food NN120/2007;
- Regulation on the procedure of conducting Trichinae test in meat NN62/2008, NN74/2008, NN 102/2008;
- Regulation on maximal permitted amounts of veterinary-medicine products residues in food of animal origin NN 75/2008, NN 25/2009;
- Regulation on monitoring of specific substances and their residues in live animals and products of animal origin NN79/2008 - few articles of this regulation will be in effect only after Croatia becomes the EU member;
- Regulation on monitoring measures for specific substances and their residues in live animals and products of animal origin NN79/2008;
- Regulation on health conditions of animals and food of animal origin which are applied in the production, processing, import and placing on the market NN75/2009;
- Regulation on tracking of bacterial resistance on antimicrobial preparations for salmonellas in pigs and poultry NN75/2009. ...

The Veterinary Act regulates the following: protection of animal health, conducting public veterinary medicine, improving animal reproduction, veterinary protection of environment, official inspections and inspection oversight in veterinary medicine.

5. The OLD Veterinary Act (NN 70/1997, NN105/2001, NN172/2003) is out of effect but, for example, until replaced the Regulation on Feed Additives (NN9/2007) is still valid.

6. The Act on Marine Fishing (NN 74/1994, NN 57/1996, NN 46/1997 – final text and NN 48/2005)

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Regulation on conditions for placing on the market of fish and other sea organisms NN 154/2008;
- Regulation on market standards for specific products of fishing NN 67/2009....

The Act on Marine Fishing regulates marine fishing management as a renewable, biological sea resource. This entails protection, fishing, breeding of fish and other sea organisms.

7. The Wine Act (NN96/2003) and regulations

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Regulation on wine production NN 02/2005, NN 137/2008;
- Regulation on fruit wines NN 73/2006;
- Regulation on wine and fruit vinegar NN 121/2005;
- Regulation on advertising of wine with GI and fruit wine NN105/2004;
- List of traditional expressions for wine NN96/2008. ...

The Wine Act regulates the following: production and trade with wines and other products from grapes and wines, distillation process, labeling, geographical identification (GI) protection, production and trade with fruit wines and other wines made from the base of fruit wines, etc...

8. The Law on Geographical Identification (GI) and Marks of Traditional Agricultural and Foodstuff Reputation with amendments (NN84/2008, NN75/2009)

Some interesting regulations are as follows:

- Regulation on traditional reputation of agricultural and foodstuff products NN 82/2009
- Regulation on marks of authenticity and marks of geographical identification (GI) of agricultural and foodstuff products NN88/2009;

The Law on Geographical Identification (GI) and Marks of Traditional Agricultural and Foodstuff Reputation regulates the following: procedure for protection and procedure for filing requests for GI and the mark of traditional agricultural and/or foodstuff reputation on a national level, procedures for the protection of traditional reputation and procedures for filing requests for agricultural products and/or foodstuff on national level, official inspections and compliance with product specification.

Croatian laws and regulations can be found in the Croatian language at www.nn.hr.

Section II. Labeling Requirements:

A. General requirements

1. The Food Act (NN 46/2007) provides general rules on product labeling, which require that labeling should not mislead the consumer. Furthermore, general labeling of packaged and unpackaged food is regulated by The Regulation on Labeling, Marketing and Presenting of Food (NN41/2008).

-- The requirements of the Regulation on Labeling, Marketing and Presenting of Food:

This regulation describes general labeling requirements for packaged and unpackaged food, as well as some rules for presenting and marketing of food. Food that is placed on the market of the Republic of Croatia must have a declaration (or label). The labeling includes; all written indications, data, a market indication, trademark, brand name, and a picture or symbol referring to the food; that is placed on the packaging, label, pendant, or the documents and all notifications that accompany or refer to that food. This information must be attached to the packaging in a way that taking it off is made very hard.

According to this regulation, food must be labeled in a way that the information on the label does not mislead the consumer and the retailer of food. This regulation specifies the details for every line statement on the label. It also demands that the label contain additional information if specific regulations for specific food products demand so. In cases of the list of ingredients and expiration date, if specific regulations for specific food products permit, some information can be omitted but only if the end consumer is fully aware of it. At minimum, the label must contain information listed below.

The declaration for packed food must contain the following information:

- Name of the food under which it is sold;
-
- List of ingredients;
-
- Quantity of specific ingredients or the category of the ingredients;
-
- Net quantity;
-
- Expiration date;
-
- Storage conditions and when necessary, whether the storage conditions can influence the food's duration;
-
- Name and address of the producer or the person who packages the food and/or places it on the market and is registered in The Republic Croatia;
-
- Details about the place of origin, if absence of this information could be misleading to the consumer about the true origins of the product;
-
- Instructions and usage where necessary for proper handling;
-
- Beverages containing more than 1.2% vol. of alcohol, the true strength of the alcohol by the volume must be stated.

Information about the name of the food, net quantity, expiration date and the true strength of the alcohol content for beverages containing more than 1.2 percent volume. of alcohol must be put on the packaging in a way that it is clearly visible.

For food that is: ionized, packed with usage of gasses, containing one or more artificial sweeteners; aromatized with kinin or caffeine; food with phytosterols; esters of phytosterols, phytostanols and esters of phytostanols; glicirizin-acid or ammonium salts of glicirizin acid and aromas this regulation requires additional information which needs to be added to the label.

The Declaration or Labeling for Foods Containing or Consisting from GMO Substances

According to The Food Act (NN 46/2007), The Regulation on Contents and Technical Documentation for Placing on the Market of GMOs or Products Containing and/or Consisting from GMOs or Products that Originate from GMOs and About Conditions of Labeling and Packing of GMOs or Products Containing and/or Consisting of GMOs or Products Originating from GMOs (NN 106/2008) and The Regulation on Conditions and Procedure of Issuing Permit for Placing on the Market of GMO Food or Feed and Requirements for Traceability and Special Labeling of GMO Food and Feed (NN 110/2008) foods and feed containing, consisting or originating from GMO substances besides general label must be labeled with additional, special data so that consumers are informed about all characteristics that this kind of food or feed contains.

No biotech crops have been approved for food or feed use in Croatia, but there is a 0.9 percent threshold level for some biotech content in food and feed. Under a special ordinance from 2008 and its amendment in 2009, the threshold for biotech content in food depends upon whether or not a GMO event is on the Ordinance's list of permitted GMO events (the list is created from the list of GMO events previously tested and licensed in the EU). For details see gain report HR9007.

2. Food placed on the Croatian market must have a label written in the Croatian language in the Latin alphabet. Multi-language labeling is allowed.
 3. Products are not allowed entry with only a standard U.S. label. A Croatian label must also accompany the product. In some special cases, products may be imported without a Croatian label, but the product cannot be sold until a trade inspection ensures that a Croatian label is attached to the product.
 4. Stick-on labels, meeting local requirements, can be affixed in addition to the standard U.S. label.
 5. Labels for the food service sector (that is for unpackaged food) must be in a visible place at the point of sale or on a special packaging if food is kept at the point of sale. The retailer of the product is responsible for the labeling unpackaged food. For most of the unpackaged food products the label must include a minimum of the following information:
 - Name of the food under which it is being sold;
 - Expiration date (only for food that is microbiologically unstable);
 - Name of the producer or company that places the food on the market.
 - Unpackaged food must be accompanied by a document that contains all of the information that is placed on the label of the packaged food (see IIA1). In the case that a consumer asks for that documentation the document must be presented to the consumer.
 6. We are not aware of any products sold with only U.S. standard labeling.
 7. The country of origin is the country in which the food product is produced (that is, the country in which the food underwent technological processes that significantly changed its characteristics).
- The Regulation on Labeling, Marketing and Presenting of Food specifies the required language for stating expiration date, how the expiration date should be marked, for which products the expiration date is not required, and defines the product's shelf life. According to the regulation, the shelf life is a minimal period for food "life" duration. That is the date by which food keeps its properties when properly stored.
8. Croatian authorities do not grant exceptions to their labeling regulations.

B. Nutritional Labeling Requirements

-- The Food Act (46/2007NN) and The Regulation on Labeling, Marketing and Presenting of Food (NN41/2008) describes the basics for nutritional labeling

-- The Regulation on Citing Nutritional Value of Food (NN29/2009) and the Regulation on Nutritional and Health Claims (NN17/2009) describes the nutritional value labeling and nutritional and health claims for end consumer foods and foods for institutions and the service sector.

-- The Regulation on Nutritional and Health Claims (NN17/2009) and the Regulation on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (NN 78/2008) covers special additions to the label for food for special nutritional purposes.

-- The Regulation on Food for Babies, and Small Children and Processed Food on a Grain Base for Babies and Small Children (NN74/2008) prescribes nutritional labeling for these kind of food.

-- The Regulation on Mineral Water and Natural Spring Waters (NN57/2009) and The Regulation on Karst Waters and Table Waters (NN56/2008) covers special additions to the label for water.

-- Nutritional labeling is not mandatory except for food that has a nutritional statement on the label or if the nutritional statement is used when the food is marketed, or for food with special nutritional purposes.

Nutritional and health claims are permitted only if they can be scientifically substantiated. In addition only health claims that have received a notification number from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and that are on the permitted health claims list can be used on a product. In some circumstances certain nutritional claims are not scrutinized for scientific facts. These are, for example, claims that talk about energetic value of food, decreased amounts of fat, etc...

However, there are many limitations on the exception and exporters should consult the Regulation on Nutritional and Health Claims (NN 29/2009) and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare before using any nutrient content claim.

Section III. Packaging and Container Regulations:

A. Regulation on Metrological Requirements for Prepackages and Bottles as Measuring Containers (articles 12,16 and 17 line 1 are out of effect, NN90/2005, NN32/2006, 35/2009) prescribes package nominal fillings, marking of the quantities, etc.

B. Packaging materials and packaging material waste is covered by The Regulation on Packaging Materials and Packaging Material Waste (NN97/2005, NN115/2005, NN81/2008, 31/2009).

C. Limitations for each type of packaging material are described by The Regulation on Health Standards of Objects that are in contact with Food (NN46/2004). This regulation describes in detail which types of packaging materials are allowed. The main requirement is that packaging materials do not negatively impact the organoleptic, chemical or physical characteristic of the food and can not consist or release compounds that could be harmful to human health.

Section IV. Food Additives Regulations:

A. Additives are regulated by The Regulation on Food Additives (NN81/2008). Use of aromas is covered by the Regulation on Aromas (NN53/2008) and the use of secondary substances is covered by The Regulation on Secondary Substances in the Process of Production (NN38/2008). However, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is drafting a new regulation on aromas because Croatia is in the process of complying with the EU ordinance on aromas number 1334/2008 from the 16th of December 2008.

The new Regulation on Food Additives covers all of the EU Directives (see E48078) on sweeteners, artificial colors, etc... The list of approved food additives which are in compliance with the latest EU list can be found at E48078. Lists are published on the web page of The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare together with the list on additive purity and aromas:

<http://www.mzss.hr>,

http://www.mzss.hr/hr/zdravstvo_i_socijalna_skrb/zdravstvo/pravilnik_o_aromama).

These lists can also be found at www.nn.hr as well as at the Croatian FAS office (see appendix II). However, all of the lists are in Croatian language.

B. If a certain additive is not on the Croatian list of food additives and if it is legally used by an exporting country, then the opinion about usage of that additive in Croatia is given by the Commission for Food Additives (under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare) on the basis of a scientific opinion from the Croatian Food Agency. After the Commission on Food Additives gives its opinion, then, on the basis of that opinion, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare permits or denies usage of the new additive. The permission is granted for a period of two years and only for certain food products. For potential use of aromas that are not on the Croatian list, the Commission for Aromas is the competent authority. For the potential use of secondary substances used in the process of food production which are not on the Croatian list, the Commission for Food Additives remains the competent authority.

Section V. Pesticides and Other Contaminants:

A. The maximum content of certain pesticide or pesticide residues in foodstuffs is governed by The Regulation on Maximum Level of Pesticide Residue in and on Food and Feed of Animal and Plant Origin (NN148/2008, NN 49/2009). Other contaminants in food are regulated by The Regulation on Maximum Permitted Amounts of Specific Contaminants in Food NN154/2008 and The Regulation on Highest Permitted Quantities of Veterinary Drug Residues in Food of Animal Origin (NN75/2008).

Croatian list of residues of pesticides on and in food is in full compliance with the EU lists. This regulation is enforced by municipal and customs sanitary and veterinary inspection officials.

B. The pesticide residue list is positive, i.e., stating what is permitted, versus, what is not permitted. When a product that is intended to be imported into Croatia does not meet the maximum permitted pesticide level defined by the European Union, the importer must submit a request for import tolerance. This request must be submitted 60 days before import. The request is submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development; Directorate for Agriculture and Food Industry; Department for Plant Protection Chemicals (see VC). Department for Plant Protection Chemicals transfers this request to the Croatian Food Agency for obtaining assessment of consumer health risk. On the basis of the consumer health risk assessment the request for import tolerance is either accepted or declined.

C. According to the Law on Plant Protection Chemicals (NN70/2005) and Regulation on Registration Procedure for Plant Protection Chemicals (NN57/2007), all pesticides must be registered. The registration application should be sent to:

Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development
Directorate for Agriculture and Food Industry
Department for Plant Protection Chemicals
Vukovarska 78
10 000 Zagreb
Tel: +385 1 6109 566

D. U.S. exporters can obtain a list of approved pesticides at the USDA office in Zagreb (for contact information see appendix II).

Section VI. Other Regulations and Requirements:

A. Food products do not have to be registered for import into Croatia, but they have to comply with food-quality standards prescribed by Croatian laws and regulations.

New Regulation on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (NN 78/2008) and parts of the old Regulation on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (NN81/2004) that are still in effect require that food for special nutritional purposes obtain approval from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare before being placed on the market. For details on the procedure contact please contact the FAS Croatia office (for contact information see appendix II)

The Regulation on Food Supplements (NN 148/2008) requires that all food supplements have a notification number

from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and The Regulation on Food Enriched with Nutrients (NN 148/2008) asks for food enriched with nutrients to have notification number from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

B. All shipments that contain food will go to quality and sanitary inspection. Basically they will be randomly tested for quality, health standards, and GMO content.

C. Product samples shipped via express mail and food for fairs are treated like any other import therefore they will also be tested for quality, health standards and GMO content. It is viewed positively by the inspectors if an exporter/importer can provide additional certificates from the competent authorities of the exporting country – such as producer specifications, certificate of origin, certificate of compliance with certain regulations, etc. Please refer to the FAIRS Export Certificate Report which is expected to be published in October 2009 for the latest information pertaining to these types of specific import documents needed for the Croatian market.

Section VII. Other Specific Standards:

A. Consumers packaging or municipal waste disposal, see Section III, Item B.

B. Only metric weights and measures are accepted.

C. Fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals is permitted. In this case, labeling must be carried out according to The Regulation on Citing Nutritional Value of Food (29/2009) and The Regulation on Food Enriched with Nutrients (NN 148/2008). In addition the product must receive a notification number from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to be placed on the market.

D. Food produced from substances originating from GMOs is regulated by The Food Act (NN78/2008) and The Ordinances on GMO Levels in Products Under which Products Placed on the Market Do Not Have to be labeled as Products Containing GMO (NN 92/2008, NN36/2009).

E. Dietetic or special use foods fall under The Regulation on Food for Special Nutritional Purposes (NN 78/2008)

F. Food sanitation: This subject is covered by The Food Act (NN74/2007) – The Regulation on Food Hygiene (NN99/2007, NN27/2008), The Regulation on Hygiene of Food Originated from Animals (NN99/2007), The Regulation on Microbiological Criteria for Food (NN74/2008) and The Veterinary Act (NN41/2007, NN155/2008).

Allowed chemical preservatives are listed in The Regulation on Food Additives (NN81/2008). Certain foods can be preserved with ionizing radiation according to The Regulation on Food that was treated with Ionization Radiation (NN 38/2008). Ionization of food needs to be stated on the food label.

G. Animal quarantine: To import live animals, animals must pass through quarantine.

H. Wine is regulated by The Wine Act (NN96/2003), The Regulation on Wine Production (NN 02/2005, NN 137/2008) and The Regulation on Fruit Wines (NN 73/2006). The Regulation on Wine and Fruit Vinegar (NN 121/2005) regulates wine and fruit vinegars. Beer is regulated by The Regulation on Beer and Beer with Supplements (NN42/2005, NN57/2005; NN69/2008), and strong alcohol is regulated by The Regulation on Strong Alcohols Drinks (NN61/2009).

I. Organic products: According to the Regulation on Labeling of Organic Products (NN10/2007, NN64/2009) imported, unprocessed product can be labeled as organic if its production was comparable to Croatian legislation on organic production; imported, processed product can be declared as organic if 95% of substances in the product was produced from organic inputs (according to Croatian legislation on organic production) and if inputs comply with Croatian legislation of processed organic products. Croatian organic legislation does not recognize product as organic if product has traces of GMO or if product is genetically modified.

Product can also be labeled as containing organic components and for that minimum of 70 percent of the product has to be produced in organic production (according to Croatian legislation on organic production).

J. Product samples and mail order shipments are treated like any other import.

Section VIII. Copyright and/or Trademark Laws:

A. Trademarks and brand names are legally protected in Croatia with laws that are in compliance with EU legislative (see E48078). A trademark is valid for a period of 10 years, and after ten years validity has to be renewed. The number of renewals is indefinite.

B. Companies interested in registering trademarks or brand names must apply at the State Intellectual Property Office where all information and application forms are available. Some information and application forms can also be obtained at the State Intellectual Property Office web page:

<http://www.dziv.hr/en/default.aspx?ArtID=47&selection=1>,

http://www.dziv.hr/en/webcontent/file_library/inf_sources/obraci_desni_menu_EN.htm

Contact information for State Intellectual Property Office:

STATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Ulica grada Vukovara 78

HR - 10000 Zagreb

CROATIA

Director General's office

Tel. 00385 1 61 06 100

Fax. 00385 1 61 12 017

INCENTIV - Information centre for intellectual property (information and customer services)

Tel. 00385 1 61 09 825

Fax. 00385 1 61 12 017

E-mail: info@dziv.hr

Receiving office

Tel. 00385 1 61 06 417, 00385 1 61 06 418

Fax. 00385 1 61 12 017

Section IX. Import Procedures:

A. Incoming goods must go through custom storage at transport terminals or airports. After the goods arrive at the custom storage, the importer or freight forwarder should start procedures for checking and clearing goods, which includes special documents that should be sent to the Inspection Departments and the Customs Office. The procedure starts at the Sanitary Inspection Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which checks all products (except meat, which is checked by Veterinary Inspection Department from the Ministry of Agriculture Fishery and Rural Development). Samples are taken for food safety checking every time an import arrives. Products are also inspected for quality. The importer must pay for product examinations. If products are of suspicious quality and/or health standards their sales will be banned until analyses is conducted and proven otherwise. Custom clearance and removal from storage is carried out under the supervision of a custom officer who compares the documents with the commodities after they were checked for quality and a sanitary or veterinary inspector checks for quality, ingredients and health standards.

Documents needed for meat import can be found at:

USDA office in Croatia see appendix II

Custom rates and documents for imports can be found at:

<http://www.carina.hr> (This web site is only in Croatian language. For clarification, contact your Croatian partner or one of freight forwarding companies to determine the proper rates.)

B. Custom import documents should be in Croatian language, but documents in English language are accepted most of the time.

C. Average length of custom clearance for food products, if all documents are in order, is one day.

Appendix I. Government Regulatory Agency Contacts:

Control over the products that are regulated by the laws on food, cattle-breeding and veterinary law and regulations, wine act and regulations, and coordination of inspections:

Government of Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development
Grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 6106111
Fax. 00385 (0)1 6109201
E-mail: office@mps.hr
web page: www.mps.hr

Government of Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development
Miramarska 24
10000 Zagreb
Veterinary Department
Tel. 00385 (0)1 6106207
Fax. 00385 (0)1 6109207
E-mail: office@mps.hr
web page: www.mps.hr

Control over products that are regulated by the food law and regulations and control over sanitary inspection:

Government of Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Ksaver 200a
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 4677102
Fax. 00385 (0)1 4607631
E-mail: Nenad.Lamer@mzss.hr
web page: www.mzss.hr

Control over regulation on metrological requirements for prepackages and bottles as measuring containers (see section III, A):

State Office for Metrology
Ulica grada Vukovara 284
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 563 000
Fax. 00385(0)1 563 001
web page: www.dzm.hr

General trade legislation:

Government of Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Economy, Labor and Entrepreneurship
Grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 6106111
E-mail: info@mingorp.hr
web page: www.mingo.hr

Control over laws dealing with waste disposal:

Government of Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Environment
Ulica Republike Austrije 20
10 000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 3782 444
Fax. 00385 (0)1 3772 822
web page: www.mzopu.hr

Appendix II. Other Import Specialist Contacts:

Useful contact for all general advice on food trade in Croatia:

Croatian Chamber of Economy (Commerce)
Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry Department
Rooseveltova trg 2
10000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 4826066
00385 (0)1 4826068
Fax. 00385 (0)1 4561545
E-mail: poljoprivreda@hgk.hr
web page: www.hgk.hr

Information source for reports on Croatia and other countries is found at:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp>

EMBASSY (FAS/USDA) POINT OF CONTACT

For questions regarding other issues not covered in this report, please contact:

Ms. Andreja Misir
American Embassy
Agricultural Section
Thomas Jefferson St. #2
10000 Zagreb
Tel. 00385 (0)1 665 8951
Mob. 00385 (0)91 4552365
e-mail: andreja.misir@usda.gov